

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing a last-communication time ~~at which actual talk with a person was made last~~ related to a name of a person in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment;

determining based on the time whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed since said last-communication time ~~without talking with the person~~; and

alerting when it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed ~~without talking with the person~~.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein the determining comprises:

reading a current time from a timer;

calculating an elapsed time from said last-communication ~~the last-talk~~ time to the current time; and

determining whether the elapsed time exceeds the predetermined time interval.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein said last-communication ~~the last-talk~~ time is initially set to a time when data related to the person is registered into the phonebook database.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein said last-communication ~~the last-talk~~ time is updated each time communication ~~a talk~~ with the person is terminated.

Claim 6. (Original) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined time interval is arbitrarily determined depending on a user's instruction.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein the alerting is performed by driving ~~at least~~ one of a speaker, a vibrator, and a display.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing a last-communication ~~last-talk~~ time related to a name of each of a plurality of persons ~~to talk with~~ in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment;

dividing the plurality of persons into a plurality of groups;

determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups, wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication ~~talk~~ with the person is not made before alerting;

determining whether the before-alert time interval has elapsed after the last-communication ~~last-talk~~ time; and

alerting when it is determined that the before-alert time interval has elapsed after the last-communication ~~last-talk~~ time.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 8, wherein the last-communication ~~last-talk~~ time is initially set to a time when data related to the person is registered into the phonebook database.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 8, wherein the last-communication time is updated each time a communication ~~talk~~ with the person is terminated.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing a last-communication time ~~at which actual talk with a person was made last~~
related to a name of a person in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment;

storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited;

determining based on the time whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed
since said last-communication time ~~without talking with the person~~;

alerting when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is
determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed ~~without talking with the person~~;
and

inhibiting alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if
it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed ~~without talking with the~~
~~person~~.

Claim 12. (Canceled).

Claim 13. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 11, wherein the alerting is performed by driving ~~at least~~ one of a speaker, a vibrator, and a display.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 13, wherein, inhibiting comprises an audible alert by the speaker and/or the vibrator is inhibited and a silent alert on the display is permitted.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, further comprising:

storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and

displaying the alert list in form of a menu on a display so that a desired one is selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 8, further comprising:

storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and

displaying the alert list in form of a menu on a display so that a desired one is selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 11, further comprising:

storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and

displaying the alert list in form of a menu on a display so that a desired one is selected

from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-communication time ~~at which actual talk with a person was made last~~ related to a name of a person; and

Q a controller for determining based on the time whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed since said last-communication time ~~without talking with the person~~ and starting the alert function when it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed ~~without talking with the person~~.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:


a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-communication ~~last-talk~~ time related to a name of each of a plurality of persons ~~to talk with~~, wherein the plurality of persons is divided into a plurality of groups; and

a controller for determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups, wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication ~~talk~~ with the person is not made before alerting, determining whether the before-alert time interval has elapsed after the last-communication ~~last-talk~~ time, and starting the alert function when it is determined that the before-alert time interval has elapsed after the last-communication ~~last-talk~~ time.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-communication time ~~at which actual talk with a person was made last~~ related to a name of a person;

an alert-inhibition timetable storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited; and

 a controller for determining based on the time whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed since said last-communication time ~~without talking with the person~~, starting the alert function when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed since said last-communication time ~~without talking with the person~~, and inhibiting alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed since said last-communication time ~~without talking with the person~~.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment in response to termination of a call to the person;

determining based on the time data whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person; and

alerting when it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed

without communicating with the person.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 21, wherein the time is a last-communication time at which communication with the person was made last.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

21 storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment;

storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited;

determining based on the time data whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person;

alerting when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person; and

inhibiting alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 23, wherein the time data is a last-communication time at which communication with the person was made last.

Claim 25. (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in response to termination of a call to the person; and

a controller for determining based on the time data whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person and starting the alert function when it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database in mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-communication talk time related to a name of each of a plurality of persons to communicate with in response to termination of a call to the person, wherein the plurality of persons is divided into a plurality of groups; and

a controller for determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups, wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication with the person is not made before alerting, determining whether the before-alert time interval has elapsed after the last-communication time, and starting the alert function when it is determined that the before-alert time interval has elapsed after the last-communication time.

Claim 27. (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function,

comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in response to termination of a call to the person;

an alert-inhibition timetable storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited; and

a controller for determining based on the time data whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person, starting the alert function when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person, and inhibiting alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person.
